

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05940 01 OF 02 221452Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-02
/098 W

-----001705 221554Z /45

R 200700Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7955
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 5940

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY
SUBJ: BELKHODJA CLAIMS TUNISIAN-LIBYAN AGRICULTURAL
AGREEMENT IS NUCLEUS FOR COMMON MARKET

REF: TUNIS 5788

1. BEGIN SUMMARY - SEMI-INDEPENDENT DAILIES LE TEMPS AND AS-SABAH HAVE PUBLISHED RECENT INTERVIEW WITH HASSAN BELKHODJA, TUNISIAN ABRICULTURE MINISTER, IN WHICH BELKHODJA IS QUOTED AS COAIMING THAT AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGHNED LAST DAY OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO LIBYA AUGUST 9-13 IS NUCLEUS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF TUNISIAN-LIBYAN COMMON MARKET. UNDER TERMS OF ACCORD, HE SAID, TUNISIAN FARMERS WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE TO LIBYA WHERE THEY CAN OWN LAND, AND OBTAIN HOUSING, EQUIPMENT, AND PAY UNTIL LAND COMES INTO PRODUCTION. HE AGAIN PRAISED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 05940 01 OF 02 221452Z

SOCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS OBSERVED IN LIBYA. END
SUMMARY.

2. TUNISIAN MEDIA CONTINUE TO GIVE FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED BY BELKHODJA ON AUGUST 13 AT CLOSE OF HIS VISIT TO LIBYA. SEMI-INDEPENDENT DAILIES LE TEMPS AND AS-SABAH HAVE NOW BOTH CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH BELKHO-

DJA, IN WHICH MINISTER PRAISED LIBYAN GOVERNMENT FOR RECEPTION ACCORDED TUNISIAN DELEGATION AND EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR ACHIEVEMENTS LIBYA IS MAKING UNDER QADHAFI'S LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. HE ALSO SPOKE ADMIRINGLY OF EFFORTS BEING EXPENDED IN CONSTRUCTION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

3. BELKHODJA MADE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LIBYAN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND HE NOTED THAT LIBYAN FARMERS RECEIVE LAND, EQUIPMENT AND HOUSING FROM GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS SALARY UNTIL NEW FARMS COME INTO PRODUCTION. NOW TUNIS- IANS FARMEYS IN LIBYA , HE SAID, CAN ENJOY THESE SAME ADVAN- TAGES AND BENEFITS UNDER TERMS OF NEW AGREEMENT. HE STRESSED THAT THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO OWN THE LANDS THEY FARM.

4. BELKHODJA SAID THE AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT REFLECTS NEW LIBYAN ATTITUDE TOWARD TUNISIA AND REALIZATION THAT COOPERA- TION WITH TUNISIA IS "INEVITABLE NECESSITY, AS OTHERS WERE CONVINCED BEFORE." LIBYA WILL NOW GIVE SPECIAL PRIORITY TO COMMODITY IMPORTS FROM TUNISIA, EVEN IF TUNISIAN PRICES ARE 10 OR 15 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THOSE OF OTHER SOURCES. AND SUCH IMPORTS WILL ENTER LIBYA DUTY FREE. THUS, HE SAID, AGREEMENT SERVES AS NUCLEUS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF TUNISIAN-LIBYAN COMMON MARKET.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 05940 01 OF 02 221452Z

5. AS TO SPECIFIC TERMS OF AGREEMENT, BELKHODJA SAID THAT IT PROVIDES FOR EXPORT OF 10,000 M.T. OF TUNISIAN OLIVE OIL TO LIBYA DURING COMING MONTHS , AND INCLUDES COMMITMENT TO BUY 25,000 M.T. MORE IN 1978. LIBYA WILL ALSO BUY TUNISIAN ALMONDS, TOMATO CONCENTRATES, OTHER PRESERVED FOODS, CHICK PEAS, AS WELL AS SHEEP AND CAMELS. A JOINT AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY WILL BE FORMED TO COMBAT LAND EROSION AND TO OVERSEE NUMEROUS NEW AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES. TUNISIA WILL CON- TRIBUTE SEEDS AND TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS TRAINED PERSONNEL, TO THIS EFFORT. A DORMANT JOINT FISHING CORPORATION WILL ALSO BE REACTIVATED.

6. ON AUGUST 18 MOST PAPERS PUBLISHED A TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT PRESS AGENCY STATEMENT WHICH FURTHER EXTOLLED AGREEMENT. IT CLAIMED THAT AGREEMENT GIVES NEW STRENGTH AND DYNAMISM TO FRATERNAL TUNISIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS. AND THAT IT GIVES NEW FORM TO COOPERATION THAT "GOES BEYOND RELATIONS OF GOOD NEIGH- BORLINESS" IT CONTINUED THAT TWO COUNTRIES ARE "NOW DESTINED TO FIND EACH OTHER" IN SPITE OF FACT THAT EACH HAS CHOSEN ITS OWN PATH(TUNISIA WITH BOURGUIBA AND LIBYA WITH ITS OWN REVO- LUTION), AND IN SPITE OF HESITATION AND DIFICULTIES ON BOTH SIDES. ARTICLE STATE THAT BELKHODJA HAD DISCUSSED FULL RANGE

OF TUNISIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS (NOT JUST AGRICULTURAL MATTERS)
AND THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS CONSTITUTE MORE THAN MERELY
A RESUMPTION OF GOOD RELATIONS.

7. FURTHER REFERENCE WAS MADE TO FACT THAT TUNISIAN FARMERS
WILL BE ABLE OBTAIN AND OWN LIBYAN FARM LANDS ON FAVORABLE
TERMS AND THAT THEY WILL ENJOY LIBYAN GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL
SUPPORT, CREDITS, HOUSING ETC. MENTION WAS ALSO MADE OF AR-
RANGEMENTS BY WHICH LIBYAN COMMODITIES, SUCH AS WOOL AND WHEAT.
WOULD BE PROCESSED BY TUNISIAN MANUFACTURERS AND THAT LIBYA WOULD
BUY MORE THAN JUST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM TUNISIAN INDUSTRY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05940 02 OF 02 221442Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-02
/098 W

-----001588 221555Z /45

R 200700Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7962
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 5940

8. COMMENT: HEAVY MEDIA PLAY GIVEN TO AGREEMENT GIVES CLEAR
INDICATION THAT GOT IS PROCEEDING FULL STEAM WITH ITS POLICY
OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH LIBYA. EXCEPTIONALLY ROSY CAST
GIVEN TO THIS NEW PHASE IN BILATERAL RELATIONS SEEMS SOMEWHAT
AT ODDS WITH WHAT WE KNOW ARE CONTINUING CONCERNS AND DOUBTS
AT HIGH LEVELS OF GOT OVER REALITY OF LIBYA'S PROFESSED GOOD
INTENTIONS. GOT OBVIOUSLY SEES OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING HAY
WHILE SUN SHINES, AND IS WORKING HARD TO BRING IN GOOD CROP
WHILE CONDITIONS REMAIN FAVORABLE.

9. AT SAME TIME, THIS NEW PHASE IN BILATERAL RELATIONS SEEMS

TO BE MOVING AT HEADY SPEED. IN ADDITION, PROSPECT OF TUNISIAN FARMERS BEING ABLE TO OWN AND EXPLOIT NEW AGRICULTURAL LANDS, WITH DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF LIBYAN GOVERNMENT PRESENTS TOTALLY NEW ASPECT, WHICH COULD HAVE IMMENSE IMPORTANCE IF ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED. AS MATTER OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 05940 02 OF 02 221442Z

FACT, ITS IMPACT IS ALREADY PERHAPS BEING FELT IN TUNISIA. PROSPECT OF FREE OR INEXPENSIVE LAND, PLUS PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT, HOUSING AND GUARANTEED INCOME IS BEYOND EVEN THE WILDEST DREAMS OF THOUSANDS OF TUNISIA'S UNEMPLOYED RURAL POOR. FOR WEEKS NOW WE HAVE OBSERVED INCREASINGLY LARGE CROWDS OF PROSPECTIVE IMMIGRANTS FLOCKING AT THE GATES OF THE LIBYAN CONSULATE IN TUNIS IN SEARCH OF VISAS AND LABOR CONTRACTS. IN THE LAST WEEK THESE CROWDS HAVE BEEN LARGER, AND NO DOUBT SOME OF THEM HOPE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE NEW OPPORTUNITIES WHICH NOW APPEAR TO OPENING FOR THEM IN LIBYA.
KING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS, COMMON MARKETS, ECONOMIC COLLABORATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS05940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0946
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770840/aaaabhiz.tel
Line Count: 192
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6eb18457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TUNIS 5788
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1537487
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELKHODJA CLAIMS TUNISIAN-LIBYAN AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT IS NUCLEUS FOR COMMON MARKET
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, TS, LY, (BELKHODJA, HASSAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6eb18457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009